

Brian Dondo



**22 February 1943 -
25 September 2010**

Brian was born on 22 February 1943. He lived in South Bromley with his parents Anne and Alfred Dondo and his grandparents. He had two sisters, June and Ruth. His auntie, Leah Sugar, was deafblind and she moved to a residential home in Bournemouth.

In 1948, his parents bought a shop in North Tottenham and the family moved there, and lived above the shop.

Brian went to the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children and was a popular boy. He had his Barmitzvah with two other boys from the school - David Jessel and my late brother, Ivan. They were all in the same year, taught by Mr Denton.

Brian showed early signs of Usher Syndrome when he was a young boy, and it became steadily worse.

When Brian left school, he worked for various companies. He worked for Gestetner as a duplicator assembler for about fourteen years.

Brian owned his own car and was a very good driver. He loved to chat about his car and he liked to repair the car engine himself. He also had other creative hobbies. He made the card suit wooden tower (which looked like traffic lights) for JDA whist drive games.

He was a Youth Section member at the Jewish Deaf Association in Cazenove Road.

Brian was introduced to his wife Paula by their fathers. They got married in Stoke Newington Synagogue and had 2 children, Anna and Ben. Anna married Aviv and had 8 children. Ben now lives in New York.

Brian became fully blind some years ago and JDA supported him by providing hands-on communicators for him to take part in JDA Day Centre and events. He was the only JDA member at the Day Centre who was able to blow the Shofar beautifully.

Brian and Paula went to visit their son Ben in USA. Brian fell over and broke his shoulder. He was flown home and taken directly to Homerton Hospital, where he unfortunately contracted pneumonia.

He died in hospital on Saturday 25 September, aged 67 years. It was very unexpected, and very sad.

We will all miss him dearly. May he rest in peace.

Harvey Clements



I was in school with Brian at the RSJDC. He was a very nice boy; he was like a brother to me. I have known Brian and his family for nearly 60 years. His mother was a wonderful woman and was very good to me and to all of Brian's friends. We used to have supper at his house every Sunday after spending the day together, going out in his car. His father was also a very nice and patient man.

I was very happy when Brian got married to Paula. Paula came from Liverpool. They had two children, a daughter and a son.

I used to come over and help them with their children. We used to visit each other every weekend and their children would play with my children. Even when they moved house over 25 years ago, we would still see each other regularly.

Brian was a good, gentle, calm man, always smiling. He was warm and friendly to everyone he met.

I will never forget Brian and we will miss him a lot. I send best wishes to Paula and all the family.

Esther Ellenberg